

# GOVERNANCE

BASEL INSTITUTE ON GOVERNANCE

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## **Two markets, two rules?**

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Should there be different rules for developing countries and different rules for industrialised countries? After all is not healthcare provision universal and a right for all citizens of the world? I would argue that it is. However, since the playing fields between the two markets are not equal, it may be necessary to apply different rules to the two different markets.

The burden of disease, exacerbated by poverty, illiteracy, poor or non-existent infrastructure – and all that is associated with poor infrastructure – inadequate human and financial health resources – makes access to life-saving medication in developing countries a major challenge. And to this, different rules and strategies may have to be applied and exercised.

Having noted all that, it is imperative that those rules are not necessarily inferior, inadequate and unfair. If the different rules applied to the developing world are anything but inferior, then applying them in the quest for levelling the playing fields may be detrimental to access of healthcare to the developed world and nullify all efforts, no matter how noble.